

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
receiving, by a warranty processor, a warranty upgrade request from the computer system, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the computer system; ~~and~~
determining, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request is user-initiated.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price to the computer system.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising receiving payment, by the warranty processor, of the warranty upgrade price.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating, by the warranty processor, a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising transmitting, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to the computer system.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising digitally signing, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty authorization.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty duration information.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique identification number of the computer system.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7~~1~~ further comprising the computer system receiving ~~the~~a warranty authorization.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4~~2~~1 further comprising the computer system storing in secure storage information contained in ~~the~~a warranty authorization.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8~~1~~ further comprising the computer system authenticating ~~the~~a digitally signed warranty authorization.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4~~2~~1 further comprising the computer system storing ~~the~~a warranted configuration in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the ~~actual~~configuration of the computer system, and otherwise rejecting ~~the~~a warranty authorization.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6~~1~~ further comprising the computer system comparing ~~the~~a warranted configuration in ~~the~~a warranty authorization with the ~~actual~~ configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the ~~actual~~configuration of the computer system, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein a secure processor in the computer system performs the comparing and storing step.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores warranty type information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores warranty duration information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores the unique identification number from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using the replacement cost of a component in the configuration as a factor.
22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using a remaining amount of warranty time for a component in the configuration as a factor.
23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using age of a component in the configuration as a factor.
24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using reliability data of a component in the configuration as a factor.
25. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
 - sending, by the computer system, a warranty upgrade request to a remote warranty processor, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the computer system; and
 - receiving, by the computer system, a warranty upgrade price determined by the warranty processor dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
 - paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the computer system sending payment of the warranty upgrade price to the warranty processor.
27. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving, by the computer system, from the warranty server a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving by the computer system a digitally signed warranty authorization from the warranty server, the digitally signed warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~25 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~25 ~~wherein the further comprising a~~ warranty authorization ~~includes~~ including warranty duration information.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~25 ~~wherein the further comprising a~~ warranty authorization ~~includes~~ including the unique serial number of the computer system.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~28~~25 further comprising the computer system authenticating ~~the~~ a digitally signed warranty authorization.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~25 further comprising the computer system comparing ~~the~~ a warranted configuration in ~~the~~ a warranty authorization with the actual configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches ~~the actual configuration of the computer system~~ the actual configuration of the computer system, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.
34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein a secure processor in the computer system performs the comparing and storing step.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading the warranty of a configurable electrical device including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
- receiving by a warranty processor a warranty upgrade request from the configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the configurable electrical device; ~~and~~
 - determining by the warranty processor a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
 - paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.
36. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading the warranty of a configurable electrical device including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
- sending by the configurable electrical device a warranty upgrade request to a remote warranty processor, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the configurable electrical device; ~~and~~
 - receiving by the configurable electrical device a warranty upgrade price determined by the warranty processor dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
 - paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.
37. (Currently Amended) A warranty processing system comprising:
- a processor, for receiving a warranty upgrade request from a remote configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the remote configurable electrical device; ~~and~~
 - a database, coupled to the processor, for storing warranty cost information for components included in the configuration information, the database providing the warranty cost information to the processor to enable the processor to determine a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
 - means for paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.

38. (Currently Amended) A warranty processing system comprising:
- a processor, for receiving a warranty upgrade request from a remote computer system, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the remote computer system; and
 - a database, coupled to the processor, for storing warranty cost information for components included in the configuration information, the database providing the warranty cost information to the processor to enable the processor to determine a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request; and
- means for paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)
41. (Currently Amended) A method of registering the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
- monitoring, by the computer system, for a use of the computer system prior to warranty registration;
 - sending, by the computer system, a warranty registration request to a remote warranty processor when a use of the computer system prior to warranty registration is detected, the warranty registration request including configuration information for the computer system; ~~and~~
- paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information;
- and
- receiving, by the computer system, a warranty authorization from the warranty processor, the warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.
42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization is digitally signed.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty duration information.
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4241 ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a digitally signed warranty authorization includes including a unique identification number of the computer system.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4241 further comprising the computer system authenticating the a digitally signed warranty authorization to provide an authenticated warranty authorization.
47. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising the computer system comparing the warranted configuration in the warranty authorization with the actual configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the actual configuration, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.
48. (Original) The method of claim 47 wherein a secure processor in the computer system performs the comparing and storing step.
49. (Currently Amended) A method of registering the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
receiving, by a warranty processor, a warranty registration request from the computer system, the warranty registration request including configuration information for the computer system, the warranty registration request being generated by the computer system when the computer system determines that a warranty has not yet been registered for the computer system; ~~and~~
paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information;
and

sending, by the warranty processor, a warranty authorization to the computer system, the warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 further comprising digitally signing, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty authorization.
51. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
52. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
53. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty duration information.
54. (Original) The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique identification number of the computer system.
55. (Currently Amended) A method of registering the warranty of a configurable electrical device including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
 - monitoring, by the configurable electrical device for a use of the configurable electrical device prior to warranty registration;
 - sending by the configurable electrical device a warranty registration request to a remote warranty processor when a use of the configurable electrical device prior to warranty registration is detected, the warranty registration request including configuration information for the configurable electrical device; and
 - paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information;
 - and
 - receiving by the configurable electrical device a warranty authorization from the warranty processor, the warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 further comprising storing, by the configurable electrical device, the warranty authorization in secure storage.
57. (Currently Amended) A method of registering the warranty of a configurable electrical device including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
- receiving, by a warranty processor, a warranty registration request from the configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the configurable electrical device and being generated in response to a determination by the configurable electrical device that its warranty has not yet been registered;-and
 - paying a warranty upgrade fee to prompt release of further warranty information;
 - and
 - sending, by the warranty processor, a warranty authorization to the configurable electrical device, the warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.